

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

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NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 HEW-08 DODE-00 AID-20

AGR-20 L-03 DRC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /144 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5941

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7053

C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR PRECEDENCE IMMEDIATE VICE PRIORITY -
PER DRAFTER)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU, UN

SUBJ: GREENFIELD MISSION

1. AMBASSADOR, SENIOR EMBASSY COLLEAGUES AND BETTY GOUGH MET WEDNESDAY (SEPTEMBER 4) EVENING AT EMBASSY RESIDENCE WITH SIR HARRY GREENFIELD FOLLOWING HIS RETURN OF A TWO-DAY TRIP TO POPPY REGIONS. PURPOSE OF MEETING WAS TO TAKE STOCK OF GOT POPPY SITUATION IN LIGHT OF GREENFIELD CONVERSATIONS.
2. GREENFIELD, WHO IS AT LEAST 74 YEARS OLD, HAD BEEN ON SCHEDULE WHICH WOULD BE TRYING TO MUCH YOUNGER PERSON AND WAS DEFINITELY SHOWING ILL EFFECTS OF FATIGUE AND STOMACH DISORDERS.
3. HE TOLD US THAT HE WAS VERY ENCOURAGED BY WHAT HE FOUND FROM HIS TRIP, AND SPECIFICALLY BY HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS IN THE POPPY REGIONS. HE HAS COME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT TURK OFFICIALDOM IS SINCERELY COMMITTED TO AN EFFECTIVE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, AND
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HE APPEARS TO BE VERY HOPEFUL THAT SUCH A SYSTEM WOULD BE

CARRIED OUT.

4. WE POINTED OUT THAT WE COULD NOT SHARE HIS OPTIMISM. GOT WAS APPARENTLY PREPARED TO USE THE 1972 SURVEILLANCE PLAN (WHICH DID NOT WORK VERY WELL), ONLY THIS TIME INSTEAD OF HAVING IT OVERSEE 6,000 HECTARES (AS IN 1972), IT WOULD BE APPLIED TO 20,000 HECTARES. IN RESPONSE TO OUR QUERRIES ON THIS SCORE, HE INDICATED THAT HIS OPTIMISM WAS BASED ON TWO CONSIDERATIONS. FIRST WAS HIS CONVICTION THAT HAVING DEALT FOR A GREAT MANY YEARS WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES THAT HE WAS BY NOW A PRETTY GOOD JUDGE OF SINCERITY -- AND IN THIS INSTANCE HE CAME AWAY WITH A REAL FEELING THAT TURKISH OFFICIALS "MEANT IT" WHEN THEY SAY THAT THIS TIME SURVEILLANCE IS GOING TO WORK.

5. SECOND, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE LAID GREAT STRESS ON THE ADOPTION BY TURKEY OF A STRAW PROCESSING SYSTEM, AND HE SAID THAT HE FOUND CONSIDERABLE WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF TURK OFFICIALDOM TO MOVE TO THIS. WHAT HE HAD IN MIND WAS THE ABANDONMENT OF ALL LANCING FOR OPIUM AND THE COLLECTON OF ALL POPPIES IN STRAW FORM BY THE STATE MONOPOLIES ONLY. THIS WAS, IN HIS JUDGEMENT, THE OVER-RIDING KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL SURVEILLANCE OPERATION. HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT BOTH TURK OFFICIALS AND TURK FARMERS COULD BE PERSUADED TO GO ALONG WITH THIS, BUT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROCEDURE AND TO ALLOW FOR THE EXPORT OF THE STRAW WOULD REQUIRE A CHANCE IN THE LAW WHICH MIGHT BE POLITICALLY DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE.

6. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE HAD PRESSED FOR A LIMITED NUMBER OF GROWERS IN THE FIRST YEAR IN HIS TURKISH CONTACTS, HE RESPONDED IN NEGATIVE. HE SAID HE HAD ORIGINALLY ENVISIONED DOING THIS BUT HAD NOT DONE SO BECAUSE : A) IF THE POPPY STRAW PROCESS WAS ADOPTED, LIMITATIONS OF THIS KIND, IN HIS JUDGMENT, BECAME MUCH LESS IMPORTANT, AND B) HE FELT THAT EXPECTATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN AROUSED AMONG POTENTIAL GROWERS TO THE POINT THAT IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY IMPRACTICAL TO EFFECT SERIOUS LIMITATIONS.

7. IN RESPONSE TO OUR FURTHER QUESTIONS, HE ALSO TOLD
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US THAT HE HAD NOT PRESSED FOR GROWING ONLY IN AREAS CONTIGUOUS TO MAIN ROADS. HE SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THE GREAT BULF OF THE CULTIVATION WOULD, IN FACT, TAKE PLACE IN SUCH AREAS, AND, IN ANY EVENT, AGAIN STRESSED THAT THE MOST PRACTICAL KEY TO CONTROL LAY IN THE STRAW PROCESS ROUTE RATHER THAN IN MEASURES OF THIS KIND. SIR HARRY WAS NOT AT ALL RESPONSIVE TO OUR URGINGS THAT THESE TWO SAFEGUARDS WERE IMPORTANT TO PRESS, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE POPPY STRAW

PROCESS WAS ADOPTED OR NOT.

8. I EXPRESS CONCERN THAT THE GOT, QUITE APART FROM THE LEGAL POINT SIR HARRY HAD RAISED, MIGHT NOT PSYCHOLOGICALLY BE PREPARED, DURING THE FIRST YEAR OF RENEWED GROWTH, TO ADOPT THE POPPY STRAW PROCESS BECAUSE THEY WOULD NOT HAVE FACTORIES IN TURKEY TO HANDLE THIS AND WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO EXPORT THE STRAW FOR PROCESSING ELSEWHERE. I SAID I WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT, EVEN AFTER TURKEY HAD GOTTEN ITS OWN STRAW PROCESSING PLANTS, IT WAS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THE GOT WOULD BE PREPARED TO INSIST THAT THERE BE NO REPEAT NO INCISING, AND THAT THE ENTIRE CROP (AS OPPOSED TO ONLY PART OF IT) WOULD BE TAKEN TO THE STRAW PROCESSING FACTORIES. ON THE FIRST POINT, SIR HARRY THOUGHT THE CONCERN WAS VALID, ALTHOUGH HE CONTINUED TO HOPE THAT GOT COULD, IN FACT, BE TALKED INTO GOING 100 PERCENT TO STRAW PROCESSING THE FIRST YEAR. ON MY SECOND CONCERN HE DISAGREED. PRIMARILY ON THE BASIS OF HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFICIALS IN THE AREA, HE WAS CONVINCED THAT ONCE THE STRAW PROCESSING FACILITIES EXISTED IN THE COUNTRY THAT THE GOT WOULD BE WILLING TO GO 100 PERCENT VIA THAT ROUTE.

9. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS ONE IMPORTANT CAVEAT THAT HAD TO BE BORN IN MIND WITH RESPECT TO TURK ADOPTION OF THE POPPY STRAW PROCESS. HE SAID IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE FARMERS BE GUARANTEED A REASONABLE PRICE FOR THEIR PRODUCT UNDER THIS SYSTEM. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN HIS VIEW, THE NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE WORLD MARKET WOULD INSURE THIS, BUT HE THOUGHT THE WORLD COMMUNITY SHOULD BE PREPARED TO MAKE IT UP TO THE TURKISH FARMER IF BY CHANCE THE INTERNATIONAL PRICE OF THE POPPY STRAW DROPPED TO THE POINT WHERE IT WOULD BE LESS ECONOMICALLY REWARDING THAN THE

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GUM INCISION.

10. SIR HARRY IS TROUBLED THAT HE HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED BY MORE SENIOR TURKISH OFFICIALS DURING HIS STAY HERE. HE WANTS VERY MUCH TO SEE THE PRIME MINISTER AND I SAID THAT I WOULD SEEK TO BE HELPFUL IN THIS REGARD.

11. COMMENT: WE AGREE WITH SIR HARRY THAT IF THE TURKS CAN BE PERSUADED TO GO 100 PERCENT AND AT ONCE TO THE POPPY STRAW PROCESS, THIS WOULD BE A VERY SIGNIFICANT BREAKTHROUGH AND SET THE STAGE FOR A VASTLY IMPROVED SURVEILLANCE OPERATION. HE IS A REAL BELIEVER IN THE POPPY STRAW SYSTEM AND DESPITE HIS FATIGUE LAST EVENING, WAS MOST ARTICULATE AND IMPRESSIVE IN DISCUSSING IT. IT IS FOR THIS REASON I AM PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HIS TALKING DIRECTLY

TO PRIMIN ECEVIT.

12. WE WERE, OF COURSE, DISAPPOINTED THAT SIR HARRY IS PLACING SO LITTLE EMPHASIS ON EITHER: A) ACREAGE CURTAILMENT, OR B) CULTIVATION CLOSE TO MAIN ROADS, AND WE FRANKLY FEEL THAT HE MAY HAVE BEEN MORE REASSURED THAN HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN BY THE GOOD FAITH STATEMENTS WHICH WERE GIVEN TO HIM BY THE TURKS HE HAS ENCOUNTERED. OUR SUGGESTIONS TO THIS EFFECT, HOWEVER, WERE NOT WELL RECEIVED. NEVERTHELESS, AS INDICATED ABOVE, HE IS MOST IMPRESSIVE AND ARTICULATE WHEN TALKING ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF THE TURKS GOING 100 PERCENT TO THE POPPY STRAW PROCESS, AND I AM MOST ANXIOUS TO HAVE THE PRIMIN HEAR HIM ON THIS SUBJECT.
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